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**From:** Anita Bilbao  
**Sent:** 2017-12-04T15:05:25-05:00  
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**From:** Michael Richardson <[mjrichardson@blm.gov](mailto:mjrichardson@blm.gov)>  
**Date:** December 4, 2017 at 12:55:02 PM MST  
**To:** Anita Bilbao <[abilbao@blm.gov](mailto:abilbao@blm.gov)>, Edwin Roberson <[eroberso@blm.gov](mailto:eroberso@blm.gov)>  
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**From:** Heather Swift <[heather\\_swift@ios.doi.gov](mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Date:** December 4, 2017 at 6:58:35 AM MST  
**To:** [mjrichardson@blm.gov](mailto:mjrichardson@blm.gov)  
**Subject:** Fact sheets

Heather Swift  
Press Secretary  
Department of the Interior

## **Bears Ears National Monument (BENM) Modification**

### **Summary**

- The President has exercised his authority under the Antiquities Act (Act) to reduce BENM to ensure that the Federal land set aside is the smallest area compatible with the care and management of the important objects of historic or scientific interest.
- Those Federal lands excluded from the monument remain in Federal ownership and will continue to be managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) under applicable laws and land use plans that governed prior to designation of the BENM.

### **Boundaries and Acreage**

- The Federal lands in the modified national monument total approximately 201,876 acres. The proclamation restores 1,150,860 acres of Federal land unnecessarily reserved by the original BENM designation to their prior land management status.
- The areas within the modified boundaries of the BENM will be known as the Indian Creek and Shash Jáa units of the monument and include objects of historic or scientific interest under the Act, such as:
  - Bears Ears Buttes and Headwaters
  - Lime Ridge Clovis Site
  - Moon House Ruin
  - Doll House Ruin
  - Indian Creek Rock Art
  - Newspaper Rock
  - Hole in the Rock Trail
  - Outlaw Trail
  - Cultural resources, such as ancient cliff dwellings, Moki Steps, ceremonial sites, ancient tools and projectile points, remains of dwellings, granaries, kivas, towers, large villages, rock shelters, caves, and a prehistoric road system, as well as petroglyphs and pictographs.
  - Historic resources, such as remnants of sheep herding and farming operations as well as dugways, historic cabins, corrals, trails, and carved inscriptions in the rock.
  - Paleontological resources, such as the fossils remains of fish, amphibians, reptiles, and mammals, as well as dinosaur trackways.

### **Original Bears Ears NM**

**BLM:** 1,063,670 acres  
**USFS:** 289,066 acres  
**State of Utah:** 112,785 acres  
**Private:** 12,815 acres  
**Total:** 1,478,336 acres

### **Modified Bears Ears NM**

*Indian Creek Unit*  
**BLM:** 71,896 acres  
**Private:** 4,936 acres  
**State of Utah:** 9,618 acres  
**Total:** 86,447 acres

*Shash Jáa Unit*  
**BLM:** 97,393 acres  
**USFS:** 32,587 acres  
**Private:** 1,694 acres  
**State of Utah:** 10,663 acres  
**Total:** 142,337 acres

**\*\*Non-federal lands are within the external boundary are not part of the national monument but are included for reference purposes.**

### **Proclamation Changes**

#### **Protects Grazing:**

- Provides that current authorizations for livestock grazing – including the levels of grazing authorized – would not be affected or curtailed because of the monument designation.
- Provides that the Secretary may allow for active, science based vegetation treatment, particularly for pinyon-juniper removal, which will improve grazing management. This will allow for a responsive outcome-based grazing approach for permittees within the monument, allowing greater flexibility in livestock management decisions.

#### **Opens Roads:**

- Clarifies that pending preparation of a transportation plan for the national monument, the Secretary may allow motorized and non-motorized mechanized vehicle use on roads and trails that were in use prior to BENM designation and allow maintenance of the roads.

#### **Increases the Tribal Voice:**

- The Secretary and President support Congress granting tribal co-management authority for the Shash Jáa unit of the National Monument
- However until then, the Proclamation provides that the Bears Ears Commission will continue provide guidance and recommendations for the Shash Jáa Unit of the monument, and expands the membership to include a Native American San Juan County Commissioner elected by the majority-Native American voting district in that County.

## **Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument (BENM) Modification**

### **Summary**

- The President has exercised his authority under the Antiquities Act (Act) to reduce the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument (GSENM) in order to ensure that the Federal land set aside is the smallest area compatible with the care and management of the important objects of historic or scientific interest.
- Those Federal lands not included in the new monuments remain in Federal ownership and will continue to be managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) under applicable laws.

### **Background**

- In the twenty years since designation of the GSENM, the objects identified have been more thoroughly examined and mapped, which offered the opportunity to examine the significance of the objects previously identified and to determine the proper size of the reservation necessary to protect those resources.
- The areas within the modified monument boundaries will be known as the Grand Staircase, Kaiparowits and Escalante Canyons units of the monument. This will include the highest concentration of fossil resources, important landscape features such as the Grand Staircase, Upper Paria Canyon System, Kaiparowits Plateau, Escalante Natural Bridge, Upper Escalante Canyons, East Kaibab Monocline (Cockscomb), Grosvenor Arch, historic resources like Old Paria Townsite, and Dance Hall Rock, as well as relict plant communities such as No Mans Mesa.

### **Boundaries and Acreage**

- The original GSENM monument boundary included approximately 1,865,837 acres of Federal land, is reduced by approximately 861,974 acres. The remainder encompasses approximately 1,003,863 acres of federal land in the three units as provided below.

#### **Grand Staircase Unit**

**BLM:** 209,993 acres  
**Private:** 1,990 acres  
**Total:** 211,983 acres

#### **Kaiparowits Unit**

**BLM:** 551,034 acres  
**Private:** 83 acres  
**Total:** 551,117 acres

#### **Escalante Canyons Unit**

**BLM:** 242,836 acres  
**Private:** 405 acres  
**Total:** 243,241 acres

\*\*Non-federal lands are within the external boundary are not part of the national monument but are included for reference purposes.

### **Proclamation Changes**

#### **Protects Grazing:**

- Provides that current authorizations for livestock grazing – including the levels of grazing authorized – would not be affected or curtailed because of the monument designation.
- Provides that the Secretary may allow for active, science based vegetation treatment, particularly for pinyon-juniper removal, which will improve grazing management. This will allow for a responsive outcome-based grazing approach for permittees within the monument, allowing greater flexibility in livestock management decisions.

#### **Opens Roads:**

- Clarifies that clarifies that pending preparation of a transportation plan for the national monument, the Secretary may allow motorized and non-motorized mechanized vehicle use on roads and trails that were in use prior to BENM designation and allow maintenance of the roads.